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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/926,202	09/24/2001	Hiroshi Takeno	P107242-00024	6219

7590 03/25/2003

Arent Fox Kintner Plotkin & Kahn
Suite 600
1050 Connecticut Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20036-5339

EXAMINER

ANDERSON, MATTHEW A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1765

DATE MAILED: 03/25/2003

12

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/926,202

Applicant(s)

TAKENO, HIROSHI

Examiner

Matthew A. Anderson

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 January 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 6-21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 6-21 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 24 September 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 6-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wijaranakula (5,611,855) in view of Wolf et al. (Silicon Processing for the VLSI Era Volume 1: Process Technology, Lattice Press, Sunset Beach, CA, USA, pp. 26-30, 59-61, 124, 133-136).

Wijaranakula discloses a method of making an epitaxial Si wafer with certain properties. The process is disclosed in col. 4 lines 15+. A doped (with boron, arsenic, antimony) Si substrate with a dissolved oxygen concentration of between 10-50 ppma (parts per million atoms) is used. Col. 5 lines 1-67 details the growth of an epitaxial layer on the wafer. The Si epitaxial wafer is annealed at between 600°C and 900°C to form oxygen microdefects in the wafer.

Wijaranakula does not disclose the deposition temperature of the epitaxial layer or the oxygen concentration in units of atoms/cm³.

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Wolf et al. discloses known Si physical properties. On page 59, the typical concentration of oxygen in Si is given as 5×10^{17} to 1×10^{18} atoms/cm³ or 10-20 ppma. On page 135 it is disclosed that Si epitaxial growth is favored over etching in the range of temperatures from 900°C to 1400°C. Temperature optimization for annealing is disclosed on pages 60-61 and annealing from 650° to 750° C is discussed. On page 27 it is disclosed that Si doped with boron and antimony can have resistivities of from 0.005 ohm-cm upwards. Wolf et al. discloses the use of oxygen precipitates and denuded zones as gettering on page 61.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the present invention to combine Wijaranakula with Wolf et al. because Wolf discloses temperatures for epitaxial growth and annealing, a basis for comparing oxygen concentrations quoted in different units, resistivity of boron and antimony doped Si, and the known useful gettering action of oxygen precipitates in Si wafers.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the present invention to form a Si epitaxial wafer doped with boron (or antimony or arsenic) at a temperature of 1000°C or higher on a Si substrate having a oxygen concentration of 4×10^{17} to 10×10^{17} (equivalent to 1×10^{18})/cm³ and then heat treating the wafer at a temperature of from 450°C to 750°C because such is suggested by Wijaranakula in light of Wolf et al.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the present invention that the resistivity of such a wafer would include the range of 0.02 ohm-cm or lower because such is disclosed by Wolf et al. for doped Si wafers and such

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resistivity was disclosed by Wolf et al. on page 26 as known to be a function of doping concentration.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the present invention to optimize the process parameters including temperature such that oxygen precipitation nuclei were formed (thus increasing the bulk defect density) and not reducing the needed and well known use of the bulk Si oxygen precipitates for gettering purposes because Wolf et al. discloses such use for oxygen precipitates in the bulk of Si wafers and temperatures for annealing such wafers.

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments filed 12/19/2002 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

4. In response to applicant's arguments against the references individually, one cannot show nonobviousness by attacking references individually where the rejections are based on combinations of references. See *In re Keller*, 642 F.2d 413, 208 USPQ 871 (CCPA 1981); *In re Merck & Co.*, 800 F.2d 1091, 231 USPQ 375 (Fed. Cir. 1986). Wolf et al. suggests the temperatures used in the claims for annealing. The cited temperatures for Wijaranakula on page 5 overlap with the applicant's claims.

5. In response to applicant's argument that there is no suggestion to combine the references, the examiner recognizes that obviousness can only be established by combining or modifying the teachings of the prior art to produce the claimed invention

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where there is some teaching, suggestion, or motivation to do so found either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art. See *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 USPQ2d 1596 (Fed. Cir. 1988) and *In re Jones*, 958 F.2d 347, 21 USPQ2d 1941 (Fed. Cir. 1992). In this case, the examiner has provided a motivation to combine the references. The applicant cannot merely choose to ignore the presented motivation to remove its presence. The examiner notes the claimed properties were clearly those expected of annealed Si wafer with epitaxial layers. The claimed ranges were at least overlapped by the prior art and thus suggested. Wolf et al. directly suggests the annealing temperatures used by applicant to affect oxygen precipitation.

The argument concerning the resistivity of the substrate is noted but is not convincing in that both Wijaranakula and Wolf et al. disclose the usual doping of Si to affect its resistivity.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Matthew A. Anderson whose telephone number is (703) 308-0086. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Th, 6:30-5.

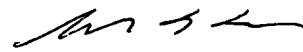
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Benjamin Utech can be reached on (703) 308-3836. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703)

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872-9310 for regular communications and (703) 872-9311 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0661.

MAA
March 22, 2003


BENJAMIN L. UTECH
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 1700